

EI-7279

John A. Sobel
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County Commissioners



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May 14, 2008

Ms. Sandy Basehore
Skelly & Loy, Inc.
2601 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Ms. Basehore,

The commissioners of Clearfield County would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the potential impacts related to the reactivation of the Beech Creek Rail Line with respect to resources in Clearfield County. Clearfield County is most impacted by the harms relating to health safety and quality of life for our citizens along the proposed route.

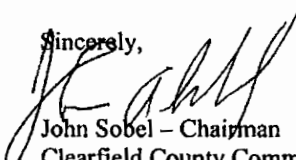
Clearfield County is working on economic development, tourism, community redevelopment, housing, and recreation opportunities and the reactivation of this section of rail to haul trash would be a large step in the wrong direction. Some but not all of our concerns are as follows:

- Traffic created by rail cars hauling trash approximately 50 per day/6 days per week)
- Possible accidents spilling garbage on the roadways and contaminating surrounding ground and waterways
- Noise and odor pollution to homes and business in the surrounding areas
- Approximately 27 rail crossings throughout the line that will adversely affect citizens who have homes and /or business along the line.
- This would be in direct conflict with our County Comprehensive Plan, which lists specific concern from our citizens that landfill projects are not acceptable forms of economic development.

We have unanswered questions as to the exact route of the line, where the trash is coming from and how it will be transported. Is it possible that garbage could be brought in via truck to a transfer station in Clearfield with the rail line only used to short haul the trash to the landfill. If there is even a remote possibility of this scenario, this needs to be publicly identified immediately as part of the application to reactivate the line. Also, who is going to pay for the cost (estimated to be at least \$25 million), to rebuild and reactivate the abandoned line? We certainly will oppose any government funding to activate a rail line to import trash to our region.

In closing we would like to stress that our major concern is the negative impact that the reactivation of this rail line will have on our area. The Commissioners of Clearfield County have a long-term commitment to improving the quality of life for our citizens and a reopening a rail line to import trash is inconsistent with our long-range plans.

Sincerely,


John Sobel - Chairman
Clearfield County Commissioners


Joan Robinson McMillen


Mark B. McCracken